THE EXAMINER.

No. 258 SUNDAY, DEC. 6. 1812.

THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

Party is the madness of many for the gain of a few. SWIFT

No. 249.

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD ELLENBOROUGH, CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE COURT OF KING'S BENCH, ONE OF HIS MAJESTY'S PRIVY COUNCIL, &c. &c.

My Lord,—I am sorry to disturb you at breakfast, but they who have representations to make to persons in office, naturally chuse a point of time, at which the faculties both of mind and body, according to the respective tastes of the possessors, are supposed to be most at their ease and best satisfied with the world about them; and if I am mistaken in the present instance, common report, and some little testimony on your Lordship's own part, of a nature which goes a good way with observers, must be my apology. At any rate, your Lordship will do justice to my generosity in wishing to find your natural temper as fortified as possible against the annoyance of a little unwelcome truth; and as a further proof of it, my language shall be as easy to you as I can make it,—no roughness,—no inversions,—no intricacies. Your Lordship, as we all know by your Charges, is fond of *a style*; and though I cannot promise to suite your taste altogether, not having practised, since I was a boy, those stilts of sentiment and plays upon a word, for which your Lordship has so natural an affection, yet at least I shall not offend your critical nicety, in other respects, nor move you to that uncomfortable though generous disdain of the illiterate, which renders you now and then so amiably ironical upon the witness-box. If what I am about to serve up to your Lordship be somewhat hard of digestion or provocative of fever, it shall at least be smooth to the tongue and spirited to the sense; and your Lordship knows very well, how much a true Epicurean should endure of after uneasiness for so much of present enjoyment.

Your Lordship, I trust, will not suffer this good beginning between us to be unpleasantly interrupted, when I tell you that I am going to say a few words on the subject of Wednesday's Trial.—Pray, my Lord, be patient and sit still;—your dignity, to say nothing of the urn and the buttered toast, is endangered by these sudden impulses.—I am not going to threaten the Judge, or to prepossess the Jurors; still less is it my intention to enter into the merits of the case: all that we could say on that head will be much better said by our Advocate; and while we are in possession of his assistance and of our own minds, we have nothing to fear from the Bench, and no want of preparation for any thing that may come from the Jury. I merely wish to caution your Lordship against regarding your opinion on this subject, whatever it may be, as calculated to have the least weight with ourselves,—against considering yourself, in the smallest manner, as a person who either has, or ought to have, any judicial authority with us, or with others, particularly in a case like the present. In short, though the proceeding, I am aware, would not have been to our interest, yet for the sake of example, and in order to shew what are and should be the ideas of Englishmen on the real dignity of justice, we should most certainly, if time and situation had been convenient for us to look into the subject a little beforehand, have entered a direct Protest in Court against your Lordship's presidency on this occasion; and in default of our so doing, we put it upon record in this place.

My Lord, we have more than once expressed ourselves on this subject; but we now shall do so at large, and enter into a thorough explanation, for your Lordship's benefit. I shall indeed be exceedingly explicit on the occasion, sufficiently so perhaps to enliven your Lordship's perusal of me into a curiosity somewhat professional. Let it be so, my Lord: examine me in your turn; and for this purpose, regard, if you please, the paper before you, as a comment in spirit, if not in letter, upon the approaching Trial,—as another Vindication of the great Censorial Right of the English Press,—another assertment of its authority over those moral particulars of Public Character, which lie out of the cognizance of the laws.

My Lord, it is upon two distinct grounds that we object to your fitness for the discharge of the judicial office; we object to it, firstly, inasmuch as you hold a situation under his Majesty incompatible with the nicer feelings of independence required in a Judge,—and secondly, inasmuch as you are in the habit of evincing that species of temper, which is familiarly termed passionate, and which is incompatible with the very nature of judgment.

With regard to the first of these points,—your Lordship's Seat in the Privy Council,—it is not at all necessary to enter upon it as a matter of dispute, of precedent, or of party. The very least that can be said of it is, that it was a most unusual appointment, and calculated to give very needless offence; but I have nothing to do with that part of the question; I may even waive observation on its unconstitutional spirit, which is the same indeed as its unphilosophical, and what I am going to mention:—it is sufficient for me, and ought to have been so for your Lordship, that by courting an honour of this kind, you shewed an eccentric and indecent ambition, without regard to the sphere in which you moved and the singleness that became it, and that by accepting such an honour, you went directly into the way of temptations, the very exposure to which, in a man of your Lordship's situation, is

indecency itself.—I am aware of the indignant and sweeping reply which your impatience will repeat to itself at this passage; it will say, of course, that you know yourself too well,—that you understand the duties of a Judge,—that you are an honest man and a gentleman,—in short, that you are not to be tempted. Alas, my Lord,—without meaning to doubt your own good opinion, or even the justice of it to an ordinary extent,—how many well-intentioned persons, who have respectably commenced their career, have said all this to themselves, while they were gradually diverging from the right path, and giving themselves up to the attractions of a Court! Your Lordship is a scholar, and I need not quote to you stale Latin sentences respecting the insensible growth of corruption; but their commonness is their truth; they describe the true features of human nature; all history,—the history of your own profession, my Lord,—abounds with portraits in illustration; and of all pieces of colouring, their gradation is the most wonderful and instructive. Not to dwell however on what your Lordship, in common with every sensible person, will be so willing to acknowledge in the abstract,—I shall be told another common-place truth in my turn, and be reminded that every rule has its exceptions. It has so;—the rules of self-love in particular consist of nothing but exceptions; but if your Lordship claim an exemption from the frailties of ordinary men, you are bound, even in modesty, to bring us some little proofs of your extraordinary philosophy, or in default of having yet been under the necessity of exerting it, the very least you can do is to convince us there are no proofs to the contrary. Now by what arguments, positive or negative, will your Lordship undertake to persuade us that you have wisely committed yourself to temptation? Shall we find them in your habits, public or private? Shall we find them in the tone of your politics? Shall we find them in your Lordship's encreasing awefulness of presence,—in a countenance, my Lord, dilating with aristocratical enjoyment,—in a voice meminiscent of mouthful and burly with luxury? Or to drop this congenial style,—this plethoric roundness of period,—and come at once to the *facts*, will your Lordship venture to assure us that there has been no real change of late years in your character and opinions,—no difference between Mr. Law and Lord Ellenborough,—no change from the untitled advocate, who vindicated the general cause of independence and resisted the overbearing temper of his superiors, to the titled Judge, who is for promulgating the most aristocratical and unconstitutional opinions, and becoming proverbial for an overbearing temper of his own? If so, my Lord, (and I know there are many persons who say that there really *is* no difference), then the public will answer you, that they thought better of you than you deserved. When your Lordship first came to the bench, you affected to have a just recollection of the ungenerous treatment which advocates, especially the younger part of them, sometimes experience from the Judge, and you promised, I believe, to set a proper example of encouraging and protecting them. Your promise has remained unredeemed; nay, it has been violated perhaps to an extent as great as you ever resisted in Lord Kenyon; and in the earlier period of our application to the Gentlemen at the bar, we found we had to contend with an apprehension of petty interruptions from the Judge, equally injurious to the dignity of one party and the proper spirit of the other. This impatience and aristocracy of temper has accompanied your Lordship to another scene of action; and as a Peer, you give no more encouragement to the freedom of opinion and the vindication of personal right, than as a Judge. In that House, my Lord, the people have seen you setting your face against every species of liberal reformation; in that House, they have seen you impatiently rising to contradict every liberal authority quoted, and every generous effort made, to free the personal liberty of the subject from encroachment; and to give an instance, which will supersede at once the necessity of all others, in that House they have heard you studiously arguing against one of the first maxims of constitutional freedom, and maintaining that in some cases, justice ought to be delayed in order to let a popular ferment subside. Without stopping, my Lord, to apply this opinion to our own case, or to ask you whether there are not courtly ferments as well as popular ones, and whether they do not outlive the others,—these are not the habits and the opinions that are to convince the people of your Lordship's invincibility to temptation, and of the propriety of uniting the office of a Royal Councillor with that of a Judge. In a word, my Lord, it is not in *human nature*, either with a reference to yourself or to them, that people should have a proper confidence in your Lordship's impartiality under such circumstances; it would not have been wise or delicate, in any character, to have expected it of them; and this very consideration alone should have persuaded your Lordship not to unite two offices in one person, each of which prevents the proper discharge of the other and the just reputation of both.

You see, my Lord, that this point of your public character is of itself sufficient to do you a serious injury with persons, who nevertheless will not hesitate to say, that they regard you in the abstract both as an able lawyer and a well-intentioned man; but if this point were wanting, the other is equally sufficient for the same purpose, and on a still wider ground; and if they had no objections to you in particular cases as a courtly Judge, they would find you utterly objectionable in all possible cases as a passionate one. This is too clear a matter even for a shadow of dispute; and as the fact is not to be denied or defended, your Lordship will probably reverse your ground of resistance, and plead that common frailty of your nature in one instance, from which you have declared yourself exempt in another. Not to argue however that an extreme violence of temper is by no means among the commonest or most excusable of frailties, your Lordship should

be told, that a Judge ought decidedly to be *above* the rest of his species in matters of ordinary humanity; frailties are the very things that bring other people under his judgment, and though he must partake of them as a man, he must not grossly partake of them as an equal; or where is his right to do justice over others? Where is his dignity to do it well? Nay, where is his very power to do it at all? How is he to be indignant against violence, if he is violent himself? How is he to overawe it with a turbulence and an impotence of his own? In short, how is he to hold the balance with diverted eyes, and a hand that is trembling with passion?

My Lord, these objections from beginning to end are founded upon truths so common and undeniable, that I should be getting into mere declamation to reason upon them. For the sake of justice in general, and the dignity of our own cause in particular, which we cannot suffer to be thought at all cognizable by a Judge of your Lordship's temperament, we have plainly told you our opinions; and we here apprise your Lordship, and all Judges afflicted with similar visitations of error, that no affectation of dignity on the part of the Bench, and no grave pretences of confounding good advice with libel, and liberty with licentiousness, will supply it with a character and a public confidence which its own habits have taken away. It will not do. A Courtier might as well talk of his free-will, or an Epicure, over his third plate of turtle, of his philosophy. How to advise your Lordship, respecting the two offices, we know not, unless it be to abstain from one of them, since it is unquestionably better to do one thing well, than two things improperly; and in this case, we should recommend to you to give up the Bench, for the trouble of a Court, to say the least of it, will be likely to keep your Lordship's resolutions (if you should make them) in a continual torture of provocation, whereas it is not probable that they would break out much at the Council table. At any rate, we trust that your Lordship will seriously reflect a little on the subject of this unfortunate habit, even if it be for nobody's sake but your own; for we cannot but think that to a person of any pride, and one who deals in good comely sentences and portly veracities, it must be an awkward thing to be liable to so much misconception of feeling, and to have perhaps his warmth in an argument traced to a heating diet, to a superfluity in the humours, or to a sort of gouty tenderness in the apprehension. In a word, my Lord, lower your appetites, both public and private; lower your aspirations after rank and your high sense of the luxurious; and you will find, in due course of time, that the loftiest honour you can attain is that of the public confidence, the best dish you can enjoy is that of a temperate conscientiousness. These are things that give us neither angry days nor uneasy nights; and with my best wishes for peace and pleasant dreams to your Lordship, I am, my Lord, &c. &c.

THE EXAMINER.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

TWENTY-EIGHTH BULLETIN OF THE GRAND ARMY.

Smolensk, Nov. 11.

The Imperial head-quarters were, on the 1st Nov. at *Viasma*, and on the 9th at Smolensk. The weather was very fine up to the 6th, but on the 7th winter began. The ground is covered with snow. The roads have become very slippery, and very difficult for carriages and horses. We have lost many men by cold and fatigue; night bivouacings are very injurious to them. Since the battle of Malojaroslavitz, the advanced guard has seen no other enemy than the Cossacks, who, like the Arabs, hover about the flanks, and fly about to annoy. On the 2d, at two in the afternoon, 12,000 Russian infantry, covered by a cloud of Cossacks, intercepted the communication a league's distance from Viasma, between the Prince of Eckmul and the Viceroy. The Prince of Eckmul and the Viceroy marched upon this column, drove it from the road, and overthrew it in the wood, took a Major-General, with a good number of prisoners, and carried off six pieces of cannon: since that time we have not again seen the Russian infantry, but only the Cossacks. Since the bad weather, from the 6th, we have lost more than 3000 carriage horses, and nearly 100 of our caissons have been destroyed. General Wittgenstein having been reinforced by the Russian divisions from Finland, and by a great number of troops from the militia, attacked, on the 18th October, Marshal Govion St. Cyr; he was repulsed by that Marshal and General Wrede, who took more than 3000 prisoners, and covered the field of battle with his dead. On the 20th ult. Marshal Gouvion St. Cyr having been informed that Marshal the Duke of Belluno, with the 9th corps, was marching to reinforce him, repassed the Dwina, and marched to meet him, in order, on having effected a junction with him, to fight Wittgenstein, and oblige him to repass the Dwina. Marshal Gouvion St. Cyr bestows the highest eulogiums upon his troops. The Swiss division distinguished itself by its *sang froid* and bravery. Colonel Gachenene, of the 26th regiment of Light Infantry, was wounded.—Marshal St. Cyr received a ball in the foot. Marshal the Duke of Reggio has arrived to replace him, and retaken the command of the second corps. The health of the Emperor has never been better.

PORTUGAL.

LISBON, Nov. 25.—On the 20th inst. the head-quarters of the Marquis of Wellington were at Fuente de Guinaldo. The enemy were in considerable force, at no great distance.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, Nov. 30.

THE REGENT'S SPEECH.

Soon after eleven, a number of Ladies, superbly dressed, occupied the Peers seats.—About one, the CHANCELLOR took his seat,—and the Princess Charlotte of WALES occupied one by his side. At two, when the REGENT entered, the House was crowded in every part. His Royal Highness wore the robes of the King, as exercising the royal functions; but being higher in rank than Prince of Wales, and lower than the King, he wore a cocked hat; the Crown, &c. &c. &c. being borne before him in great state.—Being seated on the Throne, and the Commons in attendance, he delivered the following Speech, as the *Courier* says, "in the most dignified and graceful manner: his enunciation was so clear and distinct, that every sentence and word was heard in every part of the House."—The fact is, that his Royal Highness did read it in a very respectable manner, though his voice became rather tremulous at the conclusion:—

"*My Lords and Gentlemen,*

"It is with the deepest concern that I am obliged to ac-

nounce to you, at the opening of this Parliament, the continuance of his Majesty's lamented indisposition, and the diminution of the hopes which I have most anxiously entertained of his recovery.

"The situation of public affairs has induced me to take the earliest opportunity of meeting you after the late Elections. I am persuaded you will cordially participate in the satisfaction which I derive from the improvement of our prospects during the course of the present year.

"The valour and intrepidity displayed by his Majesty's forces, and those of his Allies in the Peninsula, on so many occasions during this campaign, and the consummate skill and judgment with which the operations have been conducted by General the Marquis of Wellington, have led to consequences of the utmost importance to the common cause. By transferring the war into the interior of Spain, and by the glorious and ever memorable victory obtained at Salamanca, he has compelled the enemy to raise the siege of Cadiz, and the Southern Provinces of that kingdom have been delivered from the power and arms of France. Although I cannot but regret that the efforts of the enemy, combined with a view to one great operation, have rendered it necessary to withdraw from the siege of Burgos, and to evacuate Madrid, for the purpose of concentrating the main b dy of the allied forces; these efforts of the enemy have, nevertheless, been attended with important sacrifices on their part, which must materially contribute to extend the resources and facilitate the exertions of the Spanish nation.

"I am confident I may rely on your determination to continue to afford every aid in support of a contest which has first given to the Continent of Europe the example of presevering and successful resistance to the power of France, and on which not only the independence of the nations of the Peninsula, but the best interests of his Majesty's dominions, essentially depend.

"I have great pleasure in communicating to you, that the relations of peace and friendship have been restored between his Majesty and the Courts of St. Petersburgh and Stockholm. I have directed copies of the treaties to be laid before you.

"In a contest for his own sovereign rights, and for the independence of his dominions, the Emperor of Russia has had to oppose a large proportion of the military power of the French Government, assisted by its allies, and by the tributary States dependent upon it. The resistance which he has opposed to so formidable a combination cannot fail to excite sentiments of lasting admiration. By his own magnanimity and perseverance, by the zeal and disinterestedness of all ranks of his subjects, and by the gallantry, firmness, and intrepidity of his forces, the presumptuous expectations of the enemy have been signally disappointed. The enthusiasm of the Russian nation has increased with the difficulties of the contest, and with the dangers with which they were surrounded. They have submitted to sacrifices of which there are few examples in the history of the world; and I indulge the confident hope, that the determined perseverance of his Imperial Majesty will be crowned with ultimate success; and that this contest in its result will have the effect of establishing, upon a foundation never to be shaken, the security and independence of the Russian Empire. The proof of confidence which I have received from his Imperial Majesty in the measure which he has adopted of sending his fleets to the ports of this country, is in the highest degree gratifying to me, and his Imperial Majesty may most fully rely on my fixed determination to afford him the most cordial support in the great contest in which he is engaged.

"I have the satisfaction further to acquaint you, that I have concluded a Treaty with his Sicilian Majesty, supplementary to the treaties of 1808 & 1809. As soon as the Ratifications shall have been exchanged, I will direct a Copy of this Treaty to be laid before you. My object has been to provide for the more extensive application of the military force of the Sicilian Government to offensive operations; a measure which, combined with the liberal and enlightened principles which happily prevail in the Councils of his Sicilian Majesty, is calculated, I trust, to augment his power and resources, and at the same time to render them essentially serviceable to the common cause.

"The Declaration of War by the Government of the United States of America was made under circumstances which might have afforded a reasonable expectation that the amicable relations between the two nations would not long be interrupted. It is with sincere regret that I am obliged to acquaint you, that the conduct and pretensions of that Government has hitherto prevented the conclusion of any pacific arrangement. Their measures of hostility have been principally directed against the adjoining British Provinces, and every effort has been made to seduce the inhabitants of them from their allegiance to his Majesty. The proofs, however, which I have received of loyalty and attachment from his Majesty's subjects in North America are highly satisfactory. The attempts of the enemy to invade Upper Canada have not only proved abortive, but by the judicious arrangements of the Governor General, and by the skill and decision with which the military operations have been conducted, the forces of the enemy assembled for that purpose in one quarter have been compelled to capitulate, and in another have been completely defeated. My best efforts are not wanting for the restoration of the relations of peace and amity between the two countries; but until this object can be attained without sacrificing the maritime rights of Great Britain, I shall rely upon your cordial support in a vigorous prosecution of the war.

"*Gentlemen of the House of Commons*,

"I have directed the Estimates for the services of the ensuing year to be laid before you, and I entertain no doubt of your readiness to furnish such supplies as may enable me to provide for the great interests committed to my charge, and to afford the best prospect of bringing the contest in which his Majesty is engaged to a successful termination."

"*My Lords and Gentlemen*,

"The approaching expiration of the Charter of the East India Company, renders it necessary that I should call your early attention to the propriety of providing effectually for the future Government of the provinces of India. In considering the variety of interests which are connected with this important subject, I rely on your wisdom for making such an arrangement as may best promote the prosperity of the British possessions in that quarter, and at the same time secure the greatest advantages to the commerce and revenue of his Majesty's dominions.

"I have derived great satisfaction from the success of the measures which have been adopted for suppressing the spirit of Outrage and Insubordination which appeared in some parts of the Country, and from the disposition which has been manifested to take advantage of the indemnity held out to the deluded by the wisdom and benevolence of Parliament. I trust I shall never have occasion to lament the recurrence of atrocities so repugnant to the British character, and that all his Majesty's subjects will be impressed with the conviction, that the happiness of individuals and the welfare of the state equally depend upon strict obedience to the laws, and an attachment to our excellent Constitution.

"In the loyalty of his Majesty's people, and in the wisdom of Parliament, I have reason to place the fullest confidence. The same firmness and perseverance which have been manifested on so many and such trying occasions will not, I am persuaded, be wanting at a time when the eyes of all Europe, and of the world, are fixed upon you. I can assure you, that in the exercise of the great trust reposed in me, I have no sentiment so near my heart as the desire to promote, by every means in my power, the real prosperity and lasting happiness of his Majesty's subjects."

The Commons having withdrawn, the Regent descended from the Throne, and retired from the House with the same state as on his entrance, the band playing "God save the King."—His Royal Highness returned in a blue great coat, with gold lace frogs, gold lace fringe on the hips, &c.

At five o'clock the House proceeded to business; and the Speech being read by the LORD CHANCELLOR, and then by the Clerk,

The Earl of LONGFORD moved an Address, in the customary stile of embracing the various topics in the Speech.—Lord ROLLE having seconded it,

The Marquis WELLESLEY rose:—he said that he approved of the general spirit of the Address, but wished to draw their

Lordships attention in a more particular manner to the war in Spain. By the success of our arms in that country, the Great Person who now ruled over the destinies of France, (for *great* he would not hesitate to call him) might be reduced to the necessity of abandoning his attempts in that quarter. Our late success in Spain had in fact been the salvation of Russia, and while France was engaged in the North, we ought to strain every nerve to strike one grand decisive blow in the Peninsula. The only legitimate end of the contest was to expel the French from Spain, which he considered a practical object. But hitherto, it was his decided opinion, that the war there had been carried on in a way totally inadequate to the production of such a result.—Here the Marquis entered upon a history of the events in Spain since April. After the reduction of Badajoz, the great General who commands in the Peninsula, instead of marching against Soult, was obliged, from want of means, to proceed to the North after Marmont. There he was kept till June, owing to the want of money and means of every sort. He had no battering train, because he had not the means of transporting it. Five days before the battle of Salamanca, Lord Wellington commenced a real, not a feigned retreat; and why? Because his means were inadequate: he had not 20,000 dollars in his military chest: the richest brigade in the army had not more than 3000 dollars; and to supply the exigencies of the British army, he was compelled to use 40,000 dollars designed for the Spaniards. He was thus compelled to retreat, owing chiefly to the tardy co-operation of the Sicilian Expedition. The battle of Salamanca followed: but did that battle arise out of his efficiency or out of his necessity? It arose from the magnificence, the splendour, the greatness of his talents. He struck the enemy with his spear the moment he saw an opportunity. But were we to hope for that again? Were the errors of an enemy a ground to build upon? or did Ministers mean to say that their system was raised solely on the resplendent abilities of a consummate General? This victory certainly produced great advantages; but did it *secure* them? No; he was obliged to follow Marmont to Burgos, where he failed for want of adequate means. The French army received strong reinforcements after their defeat; but where were Lord Wellington's?—Scattered every where; some in port, some at sea, some landed where they could be of no use; and 1500 only reached him four days *after* he began his retreat! The Marquis then took a view of the proceedings of the Expedition from Sicily, which *at last* reached a place where it was extinct as to any efficient purpose. What was the result of all this? The Speech indeed told them only that the French had concentrated their forces, as if Lord Wellington's retreat had been only a manœuvre, and that it was favourable to the interests of the Spanish nation!—He hoped for some explanation on this head. Did Ministers mean to assert that the South of Spain had been delivered? His Noble Friend had never seen a Spanish army, as he had, or he would have known, that the army of Ballasteros was utterly unable to stand against those of Soult and Suchet. From Burgos, Lord Wellington was pursued by a superior force; and this being the end of the campaign, what real progress, he would ask, had been made towards the great object of the contest? The plan which ought to be pursued was that of making exertions on a large scale, adequate to the annihilation of the enemy's power in Spain; but that followed hitherto was one which exposed the sinews of the country to hourly danger, bore hard upon our finances, and yet accomplished nothing: it was expence without fruit: our blood and treasure was lavished, yet nothing effected. Where it would end, he knew not; nor could he say how closely calamity might trend upon the footsteps of error. —(*Hear, hear!*)—The best succour we could give to Russia was to push vigorously the war in Spain; but it was not so pushed, and therefore the cause of Russia was injured. The Marquis then alluded to the much-talked-of Expedition from Sweden,—the sending out Lords Cathcart and Walpole to Russia, with only 50,000 stand of arms,—and then made some observations respecting the quarrel with America, which he conceived to be most just on our part, for to concede the points in dispute (they never rested with the Orders in Council, but referred to higher questions) would be to throw into her hands the trident of the main. The Marquis concluded a speech of great length and energy, by expressing his sorrow that the Speech took no notice of the Catholic Question, and calling upon Ministers to strengthen our army in Spain, or it would be cruel to ourselves and to our Allies to continue the contest,—to persevere in a useless effusion of blood and waste of treasure.

Lord LIVERPOOL, in reply, maintained that every thing had been done in the Peninsula which a sound policy dictated, and that unmixed success in war was not to be expected. What was the actual state of our force in that quarter, which the Noble Marquis had said was so inadequately supplied? Why, that we had, on the 25th of June last, in the Peninsula and the Mediterranean, an army of no less than 127,000 men in our pay; that is, 91,000 British, including foreign or German troops, with 36,000 Portuguese. Such was our force, independently of Spanish auxiliaries, which received from us all the assistance in our power, in formation, equipment, and pecuniary supply. Nay, the British army alone, under the command of Lord Wellington, at the period alluded to, amounted to 58,000. Now he would appeal to their Lordships whether the exertions which had collected such an army deserved to be characterised in such terms as the House had heard from the Noble Marquis; but more he would ask, whether three years ago any man in England could have been so sanguine as to imagine the collection of such an army practicable? That inconveniences might have been felt from the state of the military chest, he would not deny; but the supply of specie depended on circumstances out of the controul of Ministers. The Sicilian Expedition had been of great service; and he was prepared to prove that the campaign had been successful, for Badajoz and Ciudad Rodrigo had been captured, the South of Spain relieved, and the siege of Cadiz raised. As to the failure at Burgos, no blame rested with Government. There were three battering trains in the Peninsula; but it was necessary to take Burgos without delay, and there was not time to bring up battering cannon. The recapture of Madrid was owing to the refusal of Ballasteros to obey Lord Wellington's orders, which facilitated the movements of the French, and disconcerted those of his Lordship. As to Sweden, the most perfect confidence prevailed between Sweden, Russia, and this country; and with respect to America, he was prepared to discuss the policy of the measures pursued at any time.—The Catholic Claims he had resisted, and would continue to resist, as he could see no adjustment likely to satisfy the Catholics.

Lord GRENVILLE agreed with the Marquis Wellesley, that no progress had been made in the Spanish war; and although 105 millions, or more, were to be raised this year, yet the Noble Lord confesses his inability to supply the military chest of the British Commander! The difficulty, however, did not arise from the deficient resources of the country, but from the inefficiency of the Ministers.—Lord Grenville proceeded to notice the war with America, the causes of which, he said, were not alluded to in the Speech, as they ought to have been, and finished by a few observations on the just claims of the Catholics, which Lord Liverpool had pledged himself to oppose.

Lord BATHURST justified the conduct of Ministers, as did Viscount MELVILLE.

The Address was then agreed to.—Adjourned.

Tuesday, Dec. 1.

The Duke of GLOUCESTER and Lord GRENVILLE presented Petitions from the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge against the Catholic Claims. Both his Royal Highness and Lord Grenville remarked, that the prayers of the Petitions had not their sanction; they merely presented them officially.—Adjourned till Thursday.

Thursday, Dec. 3.

THANKS TO LORD WELLINGTON.

Earl BATHURST, after pronouncing a high eulogy on the Marquis of Wellington, moved, "That the Thanks of the House be given to the Marquis of Wellington, and the Army under his command, for their gallant conduct on the 22d July, at the battle of Salamanca, which had rendered more brilliant the lustre of the British arms."

The Marquis of LANSDOWNE, Lord SOMERS, the Duke of

CLARENCE, and the Marquis of WELLESLEY, all joined in the praises of the gallant Chief, and the question was unanimously carried.—Adjourned.

Friday, December 4.

LORD WELLINGTON.

A Message from the REGENT was read, stating that his Royal Highness was desirous of bestowing upon the Marquis of Wellington for his eminent services, "a signal mark of national munificence, in order that he might be enabled adequately to support the dignities conferred upon him and his posterity."—To be considered on Monday, to which day the House adj.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, Nov. 30.

THE REGENT'S SPEECH.

The SPEAKER having returned from the Lords with the Regent's Speech, it was read from the Chair.

Lord CLIVE then proposed an Address to the Regent, in the usual manner; which proposition was seconded by Mr. HART DAVIS, jun.

Mr. CANNING approved of the Address generally, but in his review of the affairs of Spain, gave it as his decided opinion, that greater efforts might have been made for the expulsion of the French. "Never," said Mr. C. "since the commencement even of the revolutionary war, were the powers and resources of France so fully employed, the hazard on her part so great, the advantage on our side so decided, or the object for which all Europe has long looked in vain so near its accomplishment. While the forces of Bonaparte are wasting, and his strength withering in the North, oh! that we had the means of following up our glorious achievements in the Peninsula. What might not be the result, with such a General fighting in such a cause? A General, of whom it is not too much to assert, that if all Europe were his theatre of action, and if all Europe could supply him with means, he would not be unworthy of the command: a General, of whom it is not the off-spring of wild imagination to say, that a small augmentation of force would not only have made Madrid the centre of his operations, but he would have penetrated beyond the Ebro, and from the Pyrenees would have beheld with triumph the free and fertile provinces of Spain, that to him were indebted for peace, happiness, and liberty. (*Hear, hear!*)—Enough has transpired to shew us that discontents of a serious nature prevail in France, and while the Emperor Alexander is detaining Bonaparte far beyond his calculation in the North, a blow might be struck in Spain that would shake the tyrant's throne to its foundation. What is called the economy of war, which restricts and husbands efforts, I have always believed the most mistaken policy. (*Hear, hear!*). The great and bold efforts that bring a war to a speedy termination are not only the most advantageous for the nation, but the most beneficial to mankind."—Speaking of the resistance of Russia, Mr. Canning observed, "There is no man that must not feel his heart burn with transport—there is no man that can avoid rejoicing at the overthrow of those false philosophical principles, which, having long misled the world, have ended in misleading those who professed them. The effort the Russian nation is now making, may ripen their condition into freedom. Bonaparte idly flattered himself, that the people whom he had denominated barbarians and slaves, were dead to all patriotic feelings; that their minds were degraded even below the love of liberty; but, to his bitter disappointment, he discovered that there is a sentiment of patriotism, an instinctive love of soil, triumphant over the vices of positive institutions; he found, that what for the last twenty years has been advanced is utterly false, that before a nation enters into foreign wars, it begins to speculate on domestic polity, and to pry into the mysteries of the comparative anatomy of its own frame. (*Hear, hear!*). He has been taught that habit and custom are sufficient to resist an adversary approaching with the specious offers of freedom, of happiness; they are sufficient to resist him, not because he is unable to fulfil his promises, but because he is a foreigner and an invader." (*Hear, hear!*)—Mr. Canning spoke of the contest with America as one which the repeal of the Orders in Council was not likely to terminate, and recommended a more vigorous prosecution of it on our part. He concluded by some remarks on the Catholic Question, which was shortly to be agitated in Parliament.

Lord CASTLEREAGH said, he could not agree with the romantic reasoning of the Honourable Gentleman, who seemed to suppose that, after the battle of Salamanca, Lord Wellington had nothing to do but to march at once across the Pyrenees. He could not consider his not doing this as a reverse of fortune. He had achieved a most brilliant victory—he had dislocated the army of the enemy. They had found a vast effort necessary, and had rallied again in great numbers. But their having thus concentrated their forces was the strongest proof of the importance of Lord Wellington's successes.—Lord Wellington had accomplished all that he himself expected to accomplish in consequence of this victory; and it would appear, when the details were entered into, that 20,000 troops had been added to his army in the course of the last year; that it was not till May last that the men were transferred from the militia to the line; and that reinforcements were regularly sent over, as the improved discipline of the regiments permitted it.—Ministers were charged with not having made any direct effort in the North of Europe. So far, however, was the Emperor Alexander from expressing any such sentiment, that he felt, in the strongest manner, that we are fighting the battles of Russia in Spain. He felt our exertions there as made in the common cause. That great Monarch (great from the vastness of the struggle he has entered into, and from the fortitude he has shewn in carrying it on) relied with confidence on the fidelity and patriotism of his own people, as a better support than any pecuniary aid we could afford him.—Sweden was a delicate question. He did not feel himself at liberty to unreservedly enter into it. The doubtful aspect presented by Sweden had its use, as 60,000 men under Victor and Augereau had been withdrawn from the French armies to watch her operations.—With respect to America, Ministers, after the first act of hostility, lost no time in declaring war in the most eligible mode, by an order of detention. Still, however, he could not consider every avenue to peace as irrevocably closed, since a pacific proposition (originally sent to Mr. Foster), had been submitted to the American Government by Admiral Warren, to which no answer had yet been returned. His Lordship concluded with challenging Opposition to point out any speech from the Throne, which recorded a more brilliant situation of our affairs. We had engaged France in a doubtful struggle with two powerful foes, at the opposite extremities of Europe; where she had to bring her own resources with her, and to contend at every step with the hostile feelings of a whole people. He reprobated the illiberality of sentiment which had stigmatised the Russians as a barbarous nation, and considered the retreat of the Russian General, where, in a march of 500 miles, not a regiment had been dispersed, nor a cannon taken by the enemy, as displaying greater military skill than the celebrated retreat of Moreau.

Mr. WHITBREAD noticed the omissions of the Speech in regard to the Catholic Claims, the depreciated state of the currency, and the absolute wants of our army in the Peninsula, in which the want of specie was so great, that the officers were unable to obtain any of the comforts of life. When the Noble Lord took a view of the manufactures of this country, was there nothing to make him pause before boasting of the present as the proudest period of the English Annals? The Right Honourable Gentleman (Mr. Canning) had mentioned our three wars. It was, unfortunately, but too true. An acquisition of two of these wars had been made since the last Session. In the third war, which was with America, we stood principals and alone—a war the most disastrous and calamitous which ever was waged, and the existence of which cut up the sinews of the resources by which our other wars could be carried on. This was the proud, this was the unparalleled situation in which the country was placed, so much the subject of the Noble Lord's exultation. But the Noble Lord looked

at those things with a soldier's eye. [*Laugh.*] He talked of the masterly retreat of the Russians, which he thought superior to that of General Moreau. If the situation of affairs on the Continent was good for any thing, it was this; that the Emperor of France, having failed in his object in Russia, an opportunity was now offered, when it would not be inglorious, and when it would certainly be highly useful, to propose to the enemy some arrangement for peace. Great expectations were entertained by the Government from Sweden. The rear of the enemy was to be harassed by the Swedish army, under that great French Captain, as he was called, the Crown Prince of Sweden. Now the Noble Lord says—Aye, you see we were right in our expectations—Bonaparte was obliged to leave two grand corps behind him, for fear of the Swedes. But yet, some how or other, it would seem that Bonaparte was soon relieved of all apprehensions in his rear, and availed himself in proper time of these two corps. He differed altogether from the Noble Lord with respect to the resources and population of the Russian Empire, and with respect to the view which had been taken of that horrible fact, the conflagration of Moscow. The Noble Lord had applied to Bonaparte the epithet of devastator of Moscow. Now it appeared that Bonaparte was anxious, and did all that was in his power, to be the preserver of Moscow, [*Hear! from the Ministerial side,*] as he had preserved Vienna, Berlin, Venice and Milan, into which he had entered as Conqueror. The Noble Lord had regretted that the example set by Russia, in the destruction of their capital, was not earlier made; and he chose to describe that event as an evidence of the temper of the Russian people, as if they had been perfectly willing to surrender their wives and children, their sick, wounded and dying, to the destructive flames which laid the city in ashes. But this was by no means the case. It was well known that Moscow was burnt by military command, and that the Inhabitants had no will in its execution, and no power to prevent it. They had no refuge, no shelter, to fly to; and whether the act were justifiable or not, it was certainly not voluntary on their part, but a penalty inflicted on them by their Government. The Right Honourable Gentleman (Mr. Canning) had delivered a splendid passage on the instinctive love which every people possessed for their native soil. This he believed to be true; but that the people of Russia could love their Government, or talk to them of the Laws and Constitutions of their country, which they were called on to defend, was altogether ridiculous. That the Russian army was now as it always had been, famous for its valour and discipline, and for its implicit obedience, could not possibly be doubted. They were well known to obey all commands without hesitation, and would probably act now as they did formerly, when on the death of their monarch, they changed sides, and fought on the side to-day against which they had fought the day before. It was in this situation of affairs that the Noble Lord thought proper to compare the retreat from the Niemen to Moscow, with the well-known retreat of Moreau. But General Moreau executed his retreat when he was far into the enemies' country, and when he was pursued by powerful and warlike hosts. But the Russians retreated into their own country, in consequence of plans which it was said had been long digested by them. They were to stop at a certain point, where they had their magazines and entrenched camps. But was it ever in contemplation that they should retreat to Moscow, before fighting the enemy, and afterwards burn Moscow? It was preposterous, therefore, to speak of this retreat as a great military operation. But if the efforts of Russia had been great, as great they certainly were, how stupendous must have been the efforts of the Emperor of France, who, without being necessitated to carry his arms into Russia, and having the war of Spain already on his hands, began that great undertaking, penetrated to Moscow, and would, in all probability, have accomplished his purpose, but for the awful act by which it was frustrated. With respect to the state of affairs in the Peninsula, it was generally known, to the credit of Lord Wellington, that he did not court the battle of Salamanca; but that the French Commander laid himself open to attack, which that great man immediately laid hold of. By following up his victory, he took possession of Madrid, and afterwards advanced to Burgos. He was willing to pay the highest deference to the opinion of Lord Wellington, and to suppose that in acting as he did, he judged perfectly right; but the plan of his Campaign, as he himself has acknowledged, has been utterly defeated from the want of means. But then the Noble Lord enlarged on the great good produced by having weakened the French and prevented them from carrying on offensive operations, and contended, that even if Lord Wellington should be again obliged to fall back on Torres Vedras, the same glorious consequences would follow which had already taken place. But if he might be allowed to ask the question, what had the Spaniards been doing all the time? How were the Spaniards seconding the efforts of the great Commander? It was true, as the Noble Lord had stated, that the French had left the South of Spain, and been obliged to evacuate Madrid, and that Lord Wellington had been received there and every where with an enthusiasm approaching to idolatry. In his letter after entering Madrid, he said, he hoped the inhabitants of Madrid would in future do a little better than before. But after the last evacuation of Madrid, a very small French Force took possession of the Retiro. He was appointed Generalissimo of Spain; and the very first order which he issued in that character to General Ballasteros, one of the Spanish Commanders, who had been more than usually successful in his operations against the enemy, was refused to be executed by him. It was true that that General was cashiered, and that his army was given to other hands; but he very much doubted, whether the feeling which seemed to have actuated General Ballasteros was not too prevalent in Spain, to admit of any advantage being taken by Lord Wellington as Commander of the forces of that country. The cause of Spain, therefore, seemed not so hopeful as the Noble Lord had chosen to represent it. With regard to the efforts which had been made in the prosecution of this war, he had to observe, that when war was carried on in any country, there was not a doubt that the most vigorous efforts were the most likely to lead to a speedy termination. After some observations on the miserable state of the manufacturers, and their gloomy anticipations with respect to the ensuing Budget, Mr. W. made various remarks on the relations between this country and America, and concluded with saying, that under all these circumstances, he was desirous of imploring his Royal Highness to take into consideration the measure of inquiring whether or not it was at present possible to bring about a pacification. When he saw that one Minister after another took no advantage of any favourable conjuncture offered them for the accomplishment of this object, and that the moment a victory was obtained, instead of considering it as instrumental in leading to peace, the end of all war, they seemed to be immediately filled with the most frantic and unreasonable hopes, he was convinced that no Ministry would ever voluntarily enter upon negociation, and that the House were therefore now called upon to interfere, that an event might at last be brought about of so much importance to this country, and to the world.—The Hon. Gentleman then moved an amendment of great length, which embraced the various topics mentioned in his speech, and thus concluded:—

"To assure his Royal Highness, that we are determined to support the honour of his Majesty's Crown against all aggressions, and by every needful sacrifice; but that when we are called upon to impose fresh burthens upon the People of these Kingdoms, sinking under an accumulation of taxes, and oppressed by circumstances of unusual privation and distress, we do implore his Royal Highness, at the conclusion of the nineteenth year of this most extensive war, which has for so long a time, almost uninterruptedly, desolated every part of Europe, to take such measures as to his Royal Highness's wisdom shall appear best, to ascertain whether it be not possible to procure the restorations of the blessings of Peace. To state to his Royal Highness, that it appears to this House that, at a moment when the glory of the British arms transcends the glory of all former periods, in the situation of the contest between Russia and France, there can be nothing derogatory to the honour of his Majesty's Crown in a proposition made directly to all the bel-

gerents on the part of his Majesty, for a general pacification of Europe."

Mr. B. Bathurst, Sir G. Heathcote, Mr. Ponsonby, Mr. Elint, and Mr. Vernon followed. After which the question was put, and the original Address was carried, without a division.—Adjourned.

Tuesday, December 1.

On the question of bringing up the Report of the Address,

Mr. CREEVEY thought that more time should be allowed for its consideration. The Speech was wholly silent as to the financial condition of the nation. He knew that the finances were in such a state that the annuitant was robbed of one-third of his income for the sake of the Bank, and not for the sake of the country; and that one day this system must end in the annihilation of all funded property. For this reason he protested against any farther advance of money without better cause alleged; he protested against the new mode of coming before Parliament at the begining of each Session with such demands; it was, indeed, all a mere farce and Parliamentary parade, in which two well-dressed Gentlemen, having received instructions, which were denied to the rest of the House, came forward, and made two good essays on subjects furnished to them by the Minister of the day.—He would move, therefore, that the Address be brought up this day week.

Lord MILTON, referring to the contest with America, was of opinion that there was too much irritation on both sides; and he even feared, that on the part of the Great Personage at the Head of the Government, there might be something of an hereditary irritation against the Americans.

Mr. STEPHEN said, he could not avoid, when he heard the Noble Lord speaking of an hereditary irritation against America on the part of the Head of our Government, expressing his opinion, that this was a most unmerited censure on that august and venerable personage, who had, for so many years,—(*Lord Milton, across the House, told him, it was not to that Personage he had alluded; and Mr. Stephen apologized for having misunderstood him*). The words of the speech were, however, now so fresh in the recollection of the House, that he thought they must evidently see, that there was nothing of irritation towards America in it.

Mr. WILBERFORCE was not friendly to any vote in favour of peace.

Mr. WHITBREAD held a very different opinion. The moment, he thought, was peculiarly favourable; and he would have a messenger sent, not in a creeping and sneaking way, but boldly and openly, to the head-quarters of Bonaparte.

Mr. VANSITTART (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) asserted that every thing possible had been done for Spain. With respect to financial means, that no possible supply had been withheld. In 1809, the sum of 2,800,000*l.* had been granted; and during the eleven corresponding months of the present year, no less than eleven millions and an half had been applied to the services and emancipation of Spain. He had been accused of having thrown out an idea of proposing a tax upon capital. He had done no such thing; he had merely argued, that were the country to be absolutely reduced to the necessity of submitting to a tax upon capital, the people would bear it with resignation and cheerfulness, rather than submit to the ruin and degradation with which they were threatened by an insatiable and insolent enemy.—He was reproached with concealing the state of our commercial concerns; but he would say, although the returns were not exactly made up to the latest moment, that the trade of the country was very considerable; and that, judging according to the commerce of the port of London, of that of the whole kingdom, while the exports were last year but eight millions and an half, they were this year thirteen millions. They were, in fact, higher than any year except 1809. It was also a matter of real satisfaction, that in a revenue of 90 millions sterling there appeared but a deficit of 90,00 *l.*—After some further debate, the Address was agreed to.—Adjourned.

Wednesday, December 2.

The House proceeded with the Address to the Prince Regent. Adjourned.

Thursday, Dec. 3.

THANKS TO LORD WELLINGTON.

Lord CASTLEREAGH made a variety of observations upon the brilliant Victory of Salamanca. Looking, he said, at the end proposed to himself by Lord Wellington, as the raising of the siege of Cadiz and not the expulsion of the French from Spain, his object was accomplished. The French had been obliged not only to abandon the siege of Cadiz, but all Spain westward of Alicant; and if in consequence of the collection of the French forces, Lord Wellington had been obliged to retreat, it was only by the enemy's abandoning all their principles of warfare, and their military possession of the country; and that army, which went into Spain for the complete subjugation of that country, only occupied the ground on which it stood. But to turn away from its consequences in Spain, he should advert to its effects on the rest of Europe. Had not the effect of this victory been to animate the Russians, and might it not have beneficial effects on the countries unnaturally subject to France? Another not less important consequence, resulting from that victory, was, that it was a victory over Spain itself. To the House, who knew the pride, the honourable pride of the Spanish character, it would belong to appreciate the circumstance, that the Cortes had surrendered the whole military power of Spain into Lord Wellington's hands. This moral victory over the Spaniards, could not, however, be so well understood by the votes of the Cortes or Regency, as by the case of General Ballasteros. That officer not only could find no individual to support him in the Cortes or Regency, but even his own troops, those troops whom he had so often led on to victory, themselves delivered him up.—[*Hear!*] In adverting to this point in the character of the Spanish Nation, he could not but lament, that they had not permitted us to do so much good for them as we could wish. But when it is recollected, that though they have not been able to bring armies into the field, with what matchless vigour their small corps have acted, the wonder might be (deprived as they were of their accustomed supplies from South America), not that they had done so little, but that they had done so much. The Noble Lord concluded by moving, "that the Thanks of the House be given to Marquis Wellington, for his services during the last campaign, and especially for the glorious victory obtained near Salamanca."

Sir F. BURDETT rose to protest against the enormous waste of treasure and blood which was still likely to ensue. Till this night, he had never before heard that raising the siege of Cadiz was the sole object of the campaign. He plainly saw that we were as far from our object in Spain as ever. Eleven millions, that is, a million a month, had been expended last year, to raise the siege of Cadiz! After the unexpected Victory at Salamanca, such was the inherent feebleness of our army, or the misconduct of the General, that we could not follow up the advantage. How was our defeat at Burgos to be accounted for? Either Lord Wellington had not the means of victory, or with those means he had completely failed. Defect there must be somewhere. Either Lord Wellington was not entitled to the unqualified praise bestowed upon him, or Ministers were to blame. He could not partake in the delusion which had been carried on for the last nineteen years, sixteen of which he had sat in Parliament, of coming down to that House with panegyrics on commanders and votes of thanks for victories, which had constantly ended in defeat and disappointment. Gentlemen spoke with triumph of the burning of Moscow, and it was considered as an act of magnanimity in the Emperor Alexander, that, himself secure from all personal danger, he had sanctioned the destruction of his capital, and risked the lives of between two and three hundred thousand inhabitants, to prevent the French Emperor from taking up his winter quarters there. If Bonaparte should find himself in a situation to renew the war in the spring, (which he believed he would do) would the burning of Moscow then be a matter of triumph? He then adverted to the affairs of Spain, and denied that we were fighting the battles of liberty there; our support of the Inquisition was a proof of it. He also reprobated our having treated the inhabitants of Madrid, who had been found in arms with the French, as

traitors. They had been themselves betrayed; deserted by their own Government; and had a right to make their own election between the English and the French. This unprincipled act might hereafter be retaliated on those who had sided with us; and if had, he feared, contributed little to that moral conquest of Spain, of which the Noble Lord had boasted so loudly, and given no proofs at all. Where indeed, were the proofs of the patriotism, the enthusiasm of the Spanish nation? He was not surprised, though he was rejoiced, to find that Englishmen had maintained their character for bravery; but Lord Wellington had himself declared that we must depend entirely upon ourselves, if we wished to support the cause; from the natives we could expect nothing. We were no nearer to our final object than we were the first day. We had made a desperate plunge forward, but finding we could get no farther, had turned back again. He was, however, no friend to half measures; he wished either for peace or war, and not for a wretched vacillation between both.

After some further observations, the motion was carried unanimously, as was one of Thanks to the Armies serving under Lord Wellington.

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS.

Mr. BRAND wished to know whether an account of the Droits of Admiralty would be laid before Parliament previous to granting the Supplies? to which the Chancellor of the Exchequer answered in the affirmative.

Mr. CREEVEY wished to know whether the Chancellor of the Exchequer adhered to his recorded opinion, that the paper currency was of equal value with the coin of the realm? He also wished to ask whether there was any foundation for a very general report, that the Ministers themselves had become dealers in gold?

Mr. VANSITTART declared his conviction of the truth of his opinion as to the value of Bank-notes. Government had never dealt in gold; and it was only yesterday that he himself had rejected a tender of 27,000 guineas.

Mr. WHITBREAD begged to know, as the Chancellor of the Exchequer declared his own conviction that Bank-notes were of equal value with the coin of the realm, and yet stated that he had rejected an offer to purchase twenty-seven thousand guineas, what the person who made him that offer had asked for them? Whether *he* also thought them of no more value than paper; for he must be a strange and impudent bungler, who, in the face of a year's imprisonment and of transportation, could make such an offer to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, without the expectation of getting any thing by it.—(*A laugh*).

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER replied, that the offer was made through the medium of a friend; but he believed the man asked five-and-twenty shillings for each guinea.

Mr. BENNET asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether there was any truth in the report, that certain Noblemen had made an offer to Government of certain portions of their fees as Tellers of the Exchequer?

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said, that they had done so, but did not state what answer had been returned by the Government.—Adjourned.

Friday, December 4.

The House adjourned till Monday, after receiving a Message from the Prince Regent, similar to that read in the Lords.

TUESDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

BANKRUPTS.

E. Burr, Chatham, upholsterer.
L. Williams, Fenchurch-street, merchant.
W. Rye, Oxford-street, linen-draper.
J. Buckley, Oldham, Lancashire, cotton-spinner.
J. Collins, Hampstead-road, scavenger.
W. Ramsey, Dunstan's-hill, Tower-street, hoop-bender.
W. Worboys, Deptford, linen-draper.
E. Drake, Market-hill, Shadwell, bricklayer.
J. Bostock, Budgeley, Staffordshire, milliner.
T. Day, jun. West Cowes, Isle of Wight, wine-merchant
N. Hellings and W. C. Stebbing, Delahay-street, Westminster, taylors.
J. Greenwood and Co. Knowlwood-bottom, cotton-spinners.
J. Penning, Blandford Forum, Dorset, cabinet-maker.
M. Deane, Farningham, Kent, saddler.
J. Darke, Skinner-street, haberdasher.
T. Underdown, Colyton, Devonshire, ironmonger.
W. Marks, Wilton-upon-Wye, Hertfordshire, cornfactor.
T. Evans, Kidderminster, brazier.
W. Clark, Fair-street, Tooley-street, cheesemonger.

LONDON GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY,

THURSDAY, DEC. 3.

Downing-street, Dec. 3, 1812.

Dispatches, of which the following are Extracts, were received last night by Earl Bathurst, addressed to his Lordship by the Marquis of Wellington.

Pittegua, Nov. 7.

The enemy repaired the bridge at Toro at a much earlier period than I expected. I therefore desired Sir Rowland Hill to continue his march by Fontiveros upon Alba de Tormes; and as soon as I found he was sufficiently forward, I broke up yesterday morning from the position which I held in front of Tordesillas since the 30th of last month, and I am in march towards the heights of St. Christoval, in front of Salamanca. The enemy has not pressed at all upon the rear of the troops under Lieut.-Gen. Sir R. Hill, nor have those on the Douro followed the march of the troops under my command: I conclude that the two corps will unite, which, in consequence of the situation of the Douro, I could not prevent.

Ciudad Rodrigo, Nov. 10.

The troops under the command of Lieut.-Gen. Sir R. Hill crossed the Tormes, at Alba, on the 8th instant, and those under my command took their position on the heights of St. Christoval de la Cuesta on the same day; Brigadier-Gen. Park's brigade occupying Alden Lengua, and Brigadier Gen. Bradford's, Cubrerizas on the right; and the British cavalry covering our front. I had desired Lieut.-Gen. Sir Rowland Hill to occupy the town and castle of Alba, with Major Gen. Howard's brigade of the 2d division, leaving Lieut.-Gen. Hamilton's Portuguese division on the left of the Tormes to support those troops; while the 2d division was posted in the neighbourhood of the fords of Enchinas and Huerta; and the 3d and 4th divisions remained at Calvarassa de Ariba in reserve.

On the 9th the enemy drove in the picquets of Major Gen. Long's brigade of cavalry, in front of Alba; and Maj. Gen. Long was obliged to withdraw his troops through Alba on the morning of the 10th. In the course of this day, the enemy's whole army approached our positions on the Tormes, and they attacked the troops in Alba, with twenty pieces of cannon and a considerable body of infantry. They made no impression on them, however, and withdrew the cannon and the greater part of the troops on that night, and this attack was never renewed.

I enclose Lieut.-Gen. Hamilton's report to Sir Rowland Hill of the transactions at Alba, which were highly creditable to the troops employed. From the 10th till the 14th the time was passed in various reconnoissances, as well of the fords of the Tormes as of the position which the troops under my command occupied on the right of that river, in front of Salamanca; and on the 14th the enemy crossed that river in force, at three fords near Lucinas, about two leagues above Alba.

I immediately broke up from Saint Christoval, and ordered troops to move towards Arapiles; and as soon as I had ascertained the direction of the enemy's march from the fords, I moved with the 2d division of infantry, and all the cavalry I could collect, to attack them; leaving Lieut-Gen. Sir Rowland Hill with the 4th, and Lieut.-Gen. Hamilton's divisions in front of Alba, to protect this movement, and the 3d division in reserve on the Arapiles, to secure the possession of that position.

The enemy, however, were already too numerous, and too strongly posted at Morzabes, to be attacked; and I confined

myself to a cannonade of their cavalry, under cover of which I reconnoitred their position.

In the evening I withdrew all the troops from the neighbourhood of Alba to the Arapiles, leaving a small Spanish garrison in the castle, and having destroyed the bridge. In the course of the night and following morning I moved the greatest part of the troops through Salamanca; and placed Lieut.-Gen. Sir Edward Paget with the first division of infantry on the right, at Aldea Tejeda, in order to secure that passage for the troops over the Zunguen, in case the movements of the enemy on our right flank should render it necessary for me to make choice either of giving up my communication with Ciudad Rodrigo or Salamanca.

On the 15th in the morning, I found the enemy fortifying their position at Mozarbes, which they had taken up the night before; at the same time that they were moving bodies of cavalry and infantry towards their own left, and to our communications with Ciudad Rodrigo. It was obvious that it was the enemy's intention to act upon our communications; and as they were too strong, and too strongly posted for me to think of attacking them, I determined to move upon Ciudad Rodrigo. I therefore put the army in march in three columns, and crossed the Zunguen, and then passed the enemy's left flank, and encamped that night on the Vamusa. We continued our march successively on the 16th, 17th, 18th, and this day, when part of the army crossed the Agueda, and the whole will cross that river to-morrow.

The enemy followed our movement on the 16th with a large body, probably the whole of the cavalry, and a considerable body of infantry, but they did not attempt to press upon our rear. They took advantage of the ground to cannonade our rear guard, consisting of the light division, under Major-General Charles Alten, on the 17th, on its passage of the Huebra at San Munoz, and occasioned some loss.

The troops have suffered considerably from the severity of the weather, which, since the 15th, has been worse than I have ever known it at this season of the year.

I am sorry to add, that we have had the misfortune to lose Lieutenant-General Sir Edward Paget, who was taken prisoner on the 17th. He commanded the centre column, and the fall of rain having greatly injured the roads and swelled the rivulets, there was an interval between the 5th and the 7th divisions of infantry. Sir Edward rode to the rear alone to discover the cause of this interval, and as the road passed through a wood, either a detachment of the enemy's cavalry had got upon the road, or he missed the road, and fell into their hands in the wood. I understand that Sir Edward was not wounded, but I cannot sufficiently regret the loss of his assistance at this moment.

In my dispatch of the 7th inst. I communicated to your Lordship my opinion of the strength of the enemy, as far as I could judge of it from the reports I had received, and from what I had seen. I have since learnt that General Caffarelli, with the army of the North, certainly remained joined with the army of Portugal.—Joseph Bonaparte left Madrid on the 4th inst. and arrived at Pemaranda on the 8th, leaving at Madrid the civil authorities of his government, and a small garrison.—These authorities and troops evacuated Madrid on the 7th, and marched for Castile; and Colonel Don Juan Palarea the Mexico took possession of that city.

Your Lordship will have seen General Ballasteros's letter of the 24th of October, to the Regency, from which you will observe, that he had disobeyed the orders of the Government, given to him at my suggestion, to march his troops into La Mancha, and hang upon the enemy's left flank, because the Regency and Cortes had offered me the chief command of the Spanish armies.

The whole of the enemy's disposable force in Spain was therefore upon the Tormes in the middle of this month; and they were certainly not less than 80,000 men, but more probably 90,000: of these 10,000 were cavalry; and as the army of Portugal alone had one hundred pieces of cannon, it is probable that they had not less in all the armies than two hundred pieces.

(Enclosure, No. 1.)

Alba de Tormes, Nov. 11, 1812.

Sir,—I have the honour to report the steps I have taken to carry into effect your instructions for the defence of this place, which, I am happy to say, have obliged the enemy to withdraw the greatest part of the force opposed to us; and I feel almost confident we shall be able to retain our position as long as you may deem expedient. I yesterday garrisoned and provisioned the castle; and by the exertions of Capt. Goldfinch, of the Engineers, it is put into as good a state as circumstances will admit; he is continuing strengthening it. Capt. Goldfinch has been of the greatest assistance to me. I have appropriated to each regiment a district of this town, and the Commanding Officer has barricaded the streets and buildings in a very judicious manner. Brigadier de Costa and Campbell's brigades are in our position on the left bank of the Tormes.—Brigadier Campbell reports his having caused the enemy some loss, in their attempt to pass a ford near his position.—Lieut.-Col. Tulloh has made so good an arrangement of his two brigades of guns, that united with the position of the two brigades of infantry on the left bank of the Tormes, I consider my flanks secure.—Early yesterday morning Major-General Long, commanding the cavalry in front, reported that the enemy were advancing in great force; I was therefore induced to retire the cavalry.

About ten o'clock the enemy appeared on the heights in considerable force of cavalry, and a few infantry, covering, as I conceived, a reconnoissance of several Officers of rank. About two o'clock the enemy's force was increased to fifteen squadrons, and six thousand infantry, and twenty guns, including six 6-inch howitzers, which immediately commenced firing, and continued until it was dark. The enemy's light troops advanced close to the walls we had hastily thrown up, but from the cool and steady conduct of the 51st regiment, Colonel Stewart; 71st regiment, the Hon. Col. Cadogan; the 92d, Col. Cameron; General Howard's brigade, the enemy dared not attempt the town. About eight o'clock in the evening I was repeatedly informed that the enemy's infantry was considerably increasing, which induced me to order three battalions of Brigadier Da Costa's brigade into town, leaving his other battalion for the protection of the fords. The enemy during the night withdrew their artillery, and I have left a small force of cavalry and infantry, who keep up a smart fire. I have to regret the loss of a considerable number of men, but which I trust you will not deem great, when you consider the heavy and incessant fire of artillery for so many hours. The loss of the Portuguese was while on duty this morning, and I have real pleasure in reporting their steady and animated conduct. I feel much indebted to Major-General Howard, who rendered me every possible assistance, as also to every Officer and soldier of his excellent brigade, for their steady, zealous and soldier-like conduct. To Captain Pinto Savedera, my Assistant Adjutant-General; to Captain Watson, light dragoons, Assistant Quarter-Master-General; and to Captain Bunbury, my Aid-de-Camp, I consider myself obliged, for their prompt execution of my orders. I enclose a return of the killed and wounded, and trust we shall not have many more casualties.—I have the honour, &c. John Hamilton, Lt.-Gen.

Lieutenant-General Sir Rowland Hill.

Killed and Wounded in an Affair at Alba de Tormes.

21 rank and file killed; 1 Captain, 2 Lieutenants, 4 Serjeants, 85 rank and file wounded.

Officers Wounded.

British.—92d Foot, Lieut. Andrew Hill, severely.

Portuguese.—2d. Regt. of the Line, Capt. Rezinde, slightly; Lieut. Pinto, dangerously.

Killed, Wounded, and Missing, in the Movements of the Army from 22d to 29th October, 1812, inclusive.

2 Captains, 2 Lieutenants, 14 Serjeants, 2 Drummers, 107 rank and file, 74 horses, killed; 3 Lieutenant-colonels, 2 Majors, 6 Captains, 23 Lieutenants, 10 Ensigns, 1 Staff, 35 Serjeants, 3 Drummers, 439 rank and file, 65 Horses, wounded; 1 Lieutenant-colonel, 1 Major, 2 Captains, 2 Lieutenants,

2 Ensigns, 12 Serjeants, 2 Drummers, 221 rank and file, 59 Horses, missing.

Officers Killed.—October 25.

38th Foot, 1st Batt., Captain Todd.—44th Foot, 2d Batt., Lieutenant Lennon.—Brunswick Light Infantry, Captain Sternfeldt; Lieutenant Hartwig.

Wounded.—October 23.

11th Light Dragoons, Lieutenants Lye and Knipe.—12th Light Dragoons, Lieutenant Taylor.—16th Light Dragoons, Captain Murray; Lieutenant Lockhart, since dead.—1st Dragoons, King's German Legion, Major Meydell; Lieutenants Decken and Phibbs.—2d Dragoons, King's German Legion, Lieutenant Hugo; Cornet de Massau.

October 25.

Royal Artillery, Lieutenant Johnstone.—4th Foot, 1st Batt., Lieutenant-colonel Piper, slightly; Lieutenant Edgell, severely.—9th Foot, 1st Batt., Lieutenants Ackland, Taylor, Hon. W. Curzons, and Ford, severely; Lieutenant Ross Lewin, slightly.—30th Foot, 2d Batt., Captain Hitchens, Lieutenant Andrews, slightly; Lieutenant Lumley, severely; Lieutenant Brisac, Ensigns Brere and Tincombe, slightly; Ensign Madden, severely.—44th Foot, 2d Batt., Lieutenant Colonel Harding, slightly; Lieutenant Elwis, dangerously; Ensign Smith, severely.—Brunswick Oels Corps, Captain Nassau.—3d Regiment of the Line Portuguese, Ensign Joze de Moneada.—8th Cacadores, Major Hill, slightly; Captain Western, severely; Captain Manoel Castin, slightly; Lieutenants Antonio, Carlos, and Joao Baptist, severely; Lieutenant Dominga Fortonna, slightly; Ensigns Joao dos Santos, Joao Sebastiano, and Rodrigo Navarre, and Adjutant Leech severely.

October, 27.—Royal Artillery, Lieutenant-Colonel Robe, severely (not dangerously.)

October 28.—51st Foot, Lieutenant Hickie, severely (arm amputated.)

Missing.—October 23.—16th Light Dragoons, Lieutenant-Colonel Pelly, Lieutenant Baker.—1st Dragoons, King's German Legion, Major Fischer.—2d Dragoons, King's German Legion, Captain Lenthe, Cornets Droege and Scheffer.

October 25.—9th Foot, 1st Batt., Lieutenant Whitley.—38th Foot, 1st Batt., Brevet Major Evans.

SATURDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

Admiralty-Office, December 5, 1812.

Extract of a Letter from Captain Swan, of the Bellette.

His Majesty's Sloop Bellette, off Romsoe. 30th October, 1812.

In executing your orders last evening to protect the rear of convoy, I beg leave to acquaint you that Mr. James Turnbull, Acting Master of this sloop, in the Yawl, boarded and captured in a very gallant manner, after a short but spirited resistance, a Danish row-boat, with a lieutenant and fifteen men, armed with two two-pounders, small-arms, &c. The Danes had five men badly wounded.

BANKRUPTS.

E. Goddard, Upper East Smithfield, victualler.
P. Wigglesworth, Church-street, Shoreditch, grocer.
J. Appleyard, Queen Anne street, West, bookseller.
J. Sizeland, Wimpole-street, Cavendish-square, tailor.
W. Arton, Cheltenham, carpenter.
S. Lister, Sheffield, draper.
J. G. Wernick, Plymouth, merchant.
C. Long, Clent, Yorkshire, merchant.
W. Major, Woolwich, Kent, master-mariner.
J. T. Pack, Ashford, Kent, grocer.
W. Newton and Co. Cannon-street-road, timber-merchants.
W. J. Smithies, Seward-stone-mills, Essex, silk-manufacturer.
W. Stradle, Paternoster-row, Manchester-warehouseman.
J. Gilbert, Radford, Stafford, coal-merchant.
W. Stevens, Petticoat-lane, victualler.
W. Gould, Milsom-street, Bath, perfumer.
L. Henderson, Cursitor-street, Chancery-lane, tailor.
G. Gowing, Holborn-bridge, stationer.
A. and C. Gordon, Church-street, Soho, tailors.
G. Robinson, Cannon-row, Westminster, upholsterer.
J. Hayward, Witney, Oxford, cabinet-maker.
E. Turner, Wednesbury, Stafford, coal-dealer.
T. Harper, jun. Crane-court, Fleet-street, printer.
J. Goddard, Spital-square, silk-manufacturer.
W. F. Patterson, Great Pulteney-street, bill-broker.
J. Hale, ironmonger-lane, Cheapside, merchant.
B. Barker, Pimlico, Middlesex, ironmonger.
E. Ball, New East Greenwich, victualler.
S. King, Gosport, shoemaker.
J. H. Schutt, Mill-wall, Poplar, sail-maker.
T. Roberts, Cheapside, silversmith.

PRICE OF STOCKS ON SATURDAY.

Consols for opening, 59⅜ | Red. Ann. 57¼

ERRATA—in the list of Members of Parliament, last week.—Andover, for *H.* Smith, read *Thomas Asheton* Smith.—Lymington, for *G. Duckett*, read *John Kingston*.—Newport (Hants), for *R. Worsley*, read *Richard Fleming Worsley Holmes*.—Winchester, for *H. C. J.* Mildmay and R. Maylor, read Sir *H. St. John Carew St. John Mildmay*, and Richard Mayler.

A CRITICISM, next week, on the alteration of DRYDEN'S *Don Sebastian*, with a word or two respecting Mr. RAE'S *Hamlet*.

G. W. on the Treatment he has received from Mr. SHERIDAN, next week.—Many other Communications are delayed for want of room.

THE EXAMINER.

LONDON, DEC. 6.

THE new Parliament commenced its proceedings on Monday, when the REGENT read a *Speech* from the throne, in the usual stile of modern Royalty. It is a production at least as remarkable for what it omits to mention, as what it dilates upon; for, while it says nothing of the wretched condition of our manufactures and commerce,—of the deplorable stagnation of trade,—of the increased depreciation of our currency,—or the alarming increase of our taxes,—while it mentions nothing of all this, it speaks with satisfaction of the new connexion with Sweden and Russia,—is confident of the determination of Parliament to support the war on the Continent,—and calls upon the Legislature to participate with his ROYAL HIGHNESS in—what think you, reader? Why, in the satisfaction which he derives *from the improvement of our prospects during the course of the present year!*—What his ROYAL HIGHNESS may think of this flourish, or what his Ministers thought of it, when they put it into the Royal mouth, we know not; but this we know, that every reflecting and humane man in the nation can view it only as an outrage on the national feelings, and a mockery of the national sufferings.

An *Extraordinary Gazette*, containing Dispatches from my Lord WELLINGTON, was published on Thursday. Just as the people were reading in the Royal Speech about the brilliant events in Spain, "which must naturally contri-

bute to extend the resources and facilitate the exertions of the Spanish nation,"—Dispatches from the British Chief are put into their hands, stating, that from the very superior force of the enemy, his Lordship had been compelled to make a rapid retreat to his old quarters on the frontiers of Portugal! Thus it appears, that after thousands of lives have been shed, and more than eleven millions of money spent, in the Peninsula, during as many months, the final result of it all is, that the British army has entered into winter-quarters on the very spot from which it set out.—This doubtless was among those happy events, which induced his ROYAL HIGHNESS to call upon the two Houses to participate with him in the satisfaction which he derived "*from the improvement of our prospects during the present Year.*"

The 28th French Bulletin has arrived, and Government has published two Russian Bulletins and other intelligence from the North: so that accounts from both sides are before the public. As usual, victories are claimed by each party; and were it not certain, that a lengthened retreat, in a Russian winter, through a ravaged and desolate country, must be productive of infinite loss to an army, harassed as it now is by an active and determined enemy, one should be at a loss to ascertain on which side the advantage preponderated. The accounts published by our Government are at variance, too, with each other; but then the admissions of the FRENCH EMPEROR,—for it is generally believed that he is himself the writer of the Bulletins,—abundantly prove that his situation is one of considerable distress.—The Letter of Count ROSEN, indeed, represents the FRENCH CHIEF as a deserter and a vagabond, and his army as not only beaten, but surrounded by four victorious Russian Armies; so that, if the said Count is not a little in error,—the next advices will doubtless bring full particulars of the total annihilation of the French Grand Army, and the capture or death of its Imperial Leader.

Paris Papers to the 30th ult. arrived yesterday. They do not contain any official intelligence from the French Grand Army; but the *Journal de Paris* says, "According to private intelligence from the theatre of war in Russia, the Grand Army has again gained a glorious victory over the Russians: the latter are reported to have lost 19 Generals. We expect ulterior intelligence respecting this event."

From Portugal, however, these papers give various official details. Count SOUHAM, who commands the army of Portugal, in a letter to the War Minister, gives an account of the retreat of Lord WELLINGTON from Burgos, and of the pursuit of the British army. He says, that at Celada the English were defeated with loss; and at the bridge of Torquemada, Lord WELLINGTON in vain attempted to make a stand. On the 25th of October a reconnoissance was made on the road to Duena, and the English were posted in front of that road with the Carrion before them. The 5th division made an attack, which obliged the English to cross the Carrion. The French were about to pass the bridge, when MINA explored and threw down one of the arches. Another bridge was also blown up. Nevertheless, some squadrons of dragoons were passed over to the left bank of the Pisuerga, and the English in charge of the bridge were made prisoners. The English then accelerated their retreat, and blew up the bridge of San Isidoro. They lost on this day 1000 men. Gen. POY mean time took Palencia, and the English had not time to destroy the bridge there. On the 26th the French were at Duena. On the 27th the English were at Cabezen. On the 30th the French entered Valladolid. In these affairs the English are said to have lost 2000 men, mostly cavalry, taken prisoners, and 2300 killed and wounded. The French state their loss at only 300.

GOVERNMENT BULLETIN.

Admiralty Office, Dec. 4.

Rear-Admiral Hope has transmitted to Mr. Croker the following translation of two Russian Bulletins, dated St. Petersburg, 9th and 11th Nov. together with an extract of a letter received at Gottenburgh, from his Excellency Count Rosen, Governor of that place, dated Stockholm, Nov. 19. The Rear-Admiral had not received any accounts officially. Rear-Admiral Hope also acquaints Mr. Croker, under the date of the 24th Nov. that the whole Russian Fleet, of about 20 sail of the line, had passed the Belt in safety, and Captain Drury, the bearer of the dispatches, reports that they were standing into Hawke Roads when he sailed.

St. Petersburg, Nov. 9.

General Wittgenstein reports to his Majesty, October 31st: —"After our entrance into Polotsk, the enemy has suffered much by the fortunate operations of Count Steinheil's corps. The loss of the enemy at the battle of Polotsk, and during their retreat to Lepel, amounts in prisoners, to 100 staff officers, (among whom are five Colonels) and 6000 privates; nine pieces of cannon, the whole baggage belonging to the Bavarian regiments—90 powder waggons, and a great number of gun carriages, the guns being thrown into the river by the enemy. Their loss in killed must have been immense, as not only the field of battle, but even the whole road, is covered with dead bodies, so that this corps of the enemy is entirely destroyed; besides, this had forced Victor with his corps to separate from the grand army. They have left Smolensk by forced marches, and joined the weak remains of St. Cyr's army, which is commanded by General Le Grand; St. Cyr having gone to Wilna on account of his wounds.

"*St. Petersburgh, Nov. 11.*

"After Moscow was retaken by the Russians under Gen. Winzingerode's command, Napoleon moved his whole army on the road to Kalouga, against Borowsk, thinking, as is proved by letters found on a Courier taken prisoner, to force himself into the most fruitful provinces. Gen. Kutusoff entirely counteracted this plan, by a serious attack, which took place on the 24th October, at Maloyaroskavitz; this little town was taken and retaken eight different times; at last the French were obliged to retreat with the loss of 16 pieces of cannon. Napoleon then gave up his plan, left the army, and took the road to Smolensk, after he had given orders for the whole army to follow in the same road. To conceal as much as possible this his retreat, he ordered one corps to march to Medyne, as if he had intended to march round the Russian left wing; during this time the Guards, with the greatest part of the Army, marched towards Mojaisk. As soon as Gen. Kutousoff was apprised of this, he broke up with his whole army, and followed the enemy. The Russian advanced guard, under Platow, overtook the French army on the 1st November, near Kelotsk, not far from Borodino, and took from them two colours, and 24 pieces of can-

pan. The 3d Nov. General Miloradowitch, supported by Platow, attacked several French corps near Viasma, commanded by the Vice-King of Italy, Davoust and Ney; these corps were completely defeated, and lost one colour, five cannon, and 2000 prisoners, amongst whom is Gen. Pettien. The whole road to Mojaisk is covered with ammunition waggons and dead horses. The French army retreats daily upwards of 50 wersts. Admiral Tchetchakoff's advanced guard, under Gen. Tschaplitz, entered Slonim on the 21st October, and took Gen. Kanapka, with the whole of the three Uhlan regiments of Guards prisoners. Col. Tcherniskoff, with a detached corps, has advanced near Warsaw. A corps belonging to Gen. Witgenstein's army, has entered Witepsk.

Extract of a Letter from Count Rosen, dated Smolensk, 19th November.

"Two Messengers arrived to-night from Russia. Wittgenstein has totally destroyed Victor and St. Cyr's armies, and is now near Smolensk. When Bonaparte left Moscow, he ordered Murat to attack Gen. Benningsen, but he was driven back.—Bonaparte then attacked Kutousoff in person, with great desperation, near Maloyarokenvetz, and was again repulsed. He then intended to fight a general battle; and if he was conqueror, to march by way of Kaluga to Poland, and there remain in winter-quarters, as near Galicia as possible: but he found the Russians so fortified, that it was impossible; he had therefore nothing left but to concentrate his whole force, and return by way of Smolensk, which is entirely laid waste; the bad roads, and the dreadful wants the French are in, gave Kutousoff time to come up with them near Viasma, when he gave them battle, and defeated them. Before the battle Bonaparte gave the command to Murat, and went himself with six thousand men to Smolensk, on his way home, but he was met by Gen. Oertel's detachment, which obliged him to return: he then tried to retreat by the road which goes from Smolensk towards the sea; there he was met by Wittgenstein's advanced guard, was beaten, and obliged to fall back on the grand army. He has now in front of him Tormasow's, Tchitchakoff's, and Wittgenstein's armies, and in his rear Kutousoff with 150,000 men. The Russians take daily three or four thousand prisoners; Wittgenstein made in one day six thousand, and took 23 pieces of cannon; Platow 20 pieces of cannon and 3700 prisoners."

The French force acting against the English in the Peninsula, is estimated at 104,000 men, under SOULT and SUCHET.—Opposed to these are 66,000 British, Germans, and Portuguese, under Lord WELLINGTON. The French have 180 pieces of cannon. Lord WELLINGTON alludes to the bad weather. It is said to have been dreadful; and that in the last three days of the retreat, many individuals suffered more than in that of Sir JOHN MOORE.

Sir EDWARD PAGET, when made prisoner, had but one orderly man with him:—he was surrounded in a wood,—and it is supposed that he was surprised, by mistaking a French piquet for some of his own men dressed up like Astley's *horsemen*.

The American brig Express is arrived from New York; sailed Nov. 6, bound to Bourdeaux; was captured on the 30th ult. by the Rover gun-brig. Accounts are stated to have been received at New York, that the Frolic sloop of war was captured by the American sloop Hornet, after a most desperate action, in which both were dismasted, and complete wrecks, and were soon after fallen in with by his Majesty's ship Poictiers, and were both taken. The PRESIDENT's Message was expected at New York the day the Express sailed. It was generally believed that an order for a general embargo would be one of the first acts of Congress, on account of the immense exportation of grain and flour from the United States.

The recent defeat of the American force in Canada was ascribed to the militia of the United States having positively refused to march across the lines into the British territories, which necessarily weakened the invading army.

Ministers are said to have it in contemplation to *raise* the income tax to *twelve and a half per cent.*

Petitions for peace are daily increasing. Leicester has done itself credit by espousing the cause of humanity and patriotism in an animated appeal to Parliament.

CLERICAL EXAMPLE.—"A Curate in the Diocese of Bath and Wells, (says a Correspondent,) the incumbency of which is vacant, was requested a few days ago to preach a funeral Sermon: the deceased had left a helpless widow and three infant children, to mourn the loss of an affectionate Husband and Parent, by a premature death. The Curate's fee of a guinea was to be paid by the Treasurer of a Friendly Society, whereof the deceased had been a member. The Sermon was preached, and a more pathetic discourse I never remember to have heard; but when the fee was tendered to him, the answer was,—"*Give it to the poor widow.*"—Is not the above, Sir, a lesson for the Dignitaries?

BIGAMY.—We are enabled by a Correspondent to lay before the Public a few of the particulars respecting the examination on a charge of bigamy, at Marlborough-street, on Friday week. The prisoner had been the wife of Henry Alden, a journeyman sawyer, and entered into the service of the late General Bowles, of Fitzroy-street. Shortly afterwards, Alden was prevailed upon to sign a deed of separation, and subsequently was induced to go to Scotland and suffer a decree of divorce to pass against him by default, upon an assurance, that he should be permitted to visit his wife, and that they should live together as husband and wife after the General's decease.—The General, who was nearly eighty years of age, married the prisoner, who is under thirty-five, at St. Pancras Church, in December last. The former marriage was at St. James's Clerkenwell, in 1799. Alden is still living; the General died in August. The Counsel for the Prisoner produced a copy of the decree of divorce, and contended that she contracted the second marriage without knowing it was illegal. On the part of the prosecution, evidence was offered, to prove that the divorce was obtained by fraud, and that the prisoner had cohabited with Alden since the decree was made by the Scotch Court. The sitting Magistrate declined committing the prisoner, on account of Lolley's case not having yet been decided, and left the prosecutor to proceed by indictment.—*Day.*

The Grand Jury of the County of Middlesex have found bills of indictment against a Magistrate and two Collectors of Poors' Rates, for fraudulently conspiring to alter the rate of the Books of the Parish.

On Sunday last the congregation attending the church at Falmouth, from an unfounded apprehension of its falling, rushed out, when many were trampled under foot, four of whom are since dead, fifteen or sixteen are now dangerously ill. The church was thinly attended.

LATE HARVEST.—Extract of a letter from Cradle Dyke, Kirkerwald, Penrith, Cumberland, dated 23d November:—"We have just finished a tedious harvest only last week; but there is yet corn out in our neighbourhood, dreadful to see, while our mountains are covered with snow."

There ought to be a new census on the *Poor-rates*, through all the parishes in the kingdom—for this enormity rages deplorably more and more. The amount is more than trebled in the present reign. In some districts, the rates are stated almost double the house-rents. In many other districts they are as much—and not to go out of the metropolis, even in the last seven years, have they not doubled on us this infliction? and in districts too as opposite as St. James's and St. Giles's.

COURT AND FASHIONABLES.

The Prince Regent on Monday proceeded in great state from St. James's to the House of Lords, to deliver a Speech from the Throne. The Royal Coach was drawn by eight Hanoverian cream coloured horses. Near the Palace, one of the wheels came in contact with something, which gave the vehicle such a shock, that the coachman was thrown forward from his seat: he shortly, however, regained it, having received only a slight bruise. The Life-Guards having been sent to Spain, the guard was composed of the Royal Blues, and the streets were kept by the 10th Hussars, whose gaudy equipments and outlandish whiskers attracted much attention.—"Upon no former occasion," says the *Courier*, "do we recollect the streets to have been more crouded, though the weather was unfavourable. The splendour of the Procession—the sight of his Royal Highness, *always so great a favourite with the people*, in his state and dignity, was extremely gratifying; *and his Royal Highness was greeted with acclamations from all quarters.*"*—Now, of all the falsehoods ever uttered by a venal press, the assertion that "his Royal Highness was greeted with acclamations from all quarters"—is perhaps the most impudent and daring. To what a pitch of meanness and assurance must that journal have arrived, which, in the face of thousands who witnessed the scene, could put forth so notorious an untruth! —The fact is, that from the Palace to the Parliament-House, not a single expression of general applause took place—hardly a voice was heard—not a hat was raised,—all was solemn, silent, sad; for the people were quite as gloomy as the weather.—Two or three *individuals*, indeed, attempted to excite some applause, but they were left to shout alone: and some persons at the windows near the House of Lords having waved their handkerchiefs as the Prince passed, the exhibition was noticed by hisses from the people.—Never, perhaps, was a new Sovereign (as he may be termed) on a first public appearance, so received by his subjects; and if his Royal Highness would reflect a little on the *causes* which induced this "expressive silence" in a generous people, there might be some hope of his adopting such a new and better course,—and the task is very far from being a hard one,—as would change this awful moodiness into the expression of a grateful approbation.

* The *Post* of the following day repeated this assertion. His Royal Highness probably reads this fashionable journal. As no person breathing could be a better judge than himself of its total want of truth, what opinion must he form of a paper, which could publish so rank a falsehood?

A LATE SERVANT OF THE PRINCE OF WALES.

Previous to the death of Mr. Godbye, he had supported his wife through a long illness, as well as his children, in a respectable manner, which accounts for his not having any thing to leave his three orphan daughters, who have been supported ever since his death by their present protector: the burthen of them, in addition to *eight of her own, has involved her in the greatest distress.* On his death bed, being asked by a friend if he had thought what was to become of his children? his reply was, "I am perfectly happy about them—his Royal Highness has sent me word to make myself easy; he will provide for my children:" and he died in that belief. This assurance, coupled with the knowledge that his Royal Highness allowed a pension to his old domestics, gave hopes that some allowance would be granted to the orphan children of so old a servant, who, but for the great exertions of their present protector, must have gone to the workhouse. The eldest has a contracted arm, and the youngest is of an age too tender to contribute towards her support.

LAW.

ALLEGED LIBEL.—THE PRINCE OF WALES v. THE EXAMINER.

The Trial of this Cause is fixed for Wednesday morning next, in the Court of King's Bench, Westminster.—The Solicitor-General leads for the Prince, and Mr. Brougham for the *Examiner*.

The following is a List of the Persons from whom the Special Jury must be selected:—

1. John Bond, Church-street, Stoke Newington;
2. Bryant Barratt, Church-street, Stoke Newington;
3. Samuel Sharwood, Charter-House square;
4. Thomas Hibbert, Great Welbeck-street;
5. John Winder, Bulstrode-street;
6. Simeon Taylor, Beaumont-street;
7. Joseph Jones, Cavendish-square;
8. *John L. Blackmore, Holles-street, Cavendish-square;
9. John Wilson, Devonshire-street, Cavendish-square;
10. Joseph Watson, Portland street;
11. Henry Thompson, Newman-street;
12. George Darby, Berners-street;
13. Charles Dawson, Gower-street;
14. Daniel Garratt, Gower-street;
15. *J. Kay, Bedford-street, Bedford-square—(*Surveyor to the General Post-Office;*)
16. *Thomas Sumpter, Thornhaugh-street;
17. *Joseph Brown, Thornhaugh-street;
18. *Alexander Gibbons, Alfred-place;
19. John Freeman, Lamb's Conduit-street;
20. James Evans, Lamb's Conduit street;
21. J. Booth, Devonshire-street, Queen-square;
22. *Samuel Jones, Queen-square;
23. Henry Stokes, Warwick-place, Queen-square; and
24. J. Maddock, Rosemary-lane, Whitechapel; Esquires.

[The six marked thus *, attended when called last Term.

MR. DRAKARD'S LIBERATION.

The dinner given to Mr. Drakard, at Boston, on his liberation from prison, was noticed in our last, and we now extract from the *Stamford News* the following passages from the able speech of Mr. Scott, the Editor of that paper:—

"Gentlemen, while touching on our political tenets, there is

one subject to which I am most anxious paintedly to allude, because I can do it with great satisfaction. You have heard, from your worthy and respectable Chairman, a toast given,—the health of the Princess Charlotte of Wales. You will participate with me in lively joy, when I state to you, that there are good reasons for believing, that, from this elevated and amiable quarter, there has broken forth the promise of a brighter day than England has for a long time enjoyed.—*(Hear, hear!)* Her mind, although young, has not, as I am informed, suffered to pass unobserved the great—the grand events of this extraordinary period; and a good understanding, combining with an excellent heart, has dictated their proper application. I believe I may affirm, that this interesting young personage, on whom, according to all probability, the hopes of the country must one day rest, already shews that she reads aright the signs of the times—that she perceives, in the expansion of human intellect which distinguishes the present age, the inevitable explosion of all tyrannical governments—and therefore vows to herself, that, when called by Providence to the Government of these realms, she will guide her rule according to the genuine principles of the British Constitution, which are those of liberty and of human happiness!—Gentlemen, I am aware that recent disappointments render this subject a tender one:—I am aware that hope deferred maketh the heart sick, and in the sinking of your spirits, occasioned by the shameless violation of public professions and the abominable disregard of private friendships, you may feel disinclined to expose yourselves again to be duped, by reposing confidence in the good intentions of those who are as yet living in the expectancy of power. But do not be wholly discouraged. I would not, on light grounds, attempt to interest your feelings on so important a point; but I do not trifle with you when I say, that you may indulge a reasonable expectation, that, as the friends of Reform, you may yet advance, in behalf of your cause, under the banners of the Sovereign of your country.

"Gentlemen, I have said, and I hope you will give me credit for sincerity, that I am very grateful for your kindness; but when I regard you as assembled together to shew a mark of respect, and evince assurances of your support, to one of the worthiest,—and I will add, and challenge contradiction,—one of the firmest and most independent men breathing—who is now liberated from a long and a severe imprisonment, which he has borne with exemplary courage, and even with cheerfulness;—when I consider you as pressing forward to congratulate this excellent person on his return to his family, his friends, and society, from which he ought not to have been separated—and further feeling how much I am personally concerned in the peculiar circumstances that led to his punishment—I am indeed most sensibly affected—I am agitated by emotions which I will not attempt to express, but for which, if you consult your own hearts, you will very readily give me credit.—Gentlemen, when I look around me, and see this room crowded with individuals of the highest respectability, collected together from all parts of this and the neighbouring counties, I am tempted to ask what kind of spectacle does our meeting present to the view of the public?—It exhibits an honest, worthy man,—respected and meriting respect,—one who has well discharged all the duties, social and domestic, that attach to us,—who has ever sustained the honourable reputation of an upright tradesman (and none in this country is more honourable)—who is beloved by his neighbours, and by all who know him, as a kind-hearted, excellent individual;—it exhibits to view this person just disenthralled from confinement,—yet smarting under the effects of a heavy fine,—punished by the constituted authorities of his country as an abandoned criminal! This, Gentlemen, you will say, is a calamitous, a heart-breaking spectacle;—and so it would be, did it form the whole of the picture; but other and more pleasing circumstances accompany it, that convert its effect into one of the most exhilirating description. I see you, forming a numerous assemblage of persons who know Mr. Drakard as a man, and are aware of his conduct as a publisher, rallying, in the spirit of freedom, round this persecuted individual; encircling him in the arms of support, and extending to him the hands of friendship,—giving the lie, if I may so speak, to the act of power by which it has been in vain attempted to degrade him,—and holding forth the convicting testimony of your upright characters and respectable conditions in life, in favour of his innocence. This, Gentlemen, is the spectacle which our meeting presents to the view of the public, and to the contemplation of Government. Is it one of which we should feel ashamed? Or, rather, is it not one at which the persons in power ought to feel shame, and must feel dread?—What! shall we be told that ye are all abandoned criminals—that ye are all anxious to pull down destruction on your country—that ye all wish to disorganize that army on whose efficient exertions you rely for the protection of your lives and your property—that ye are all seditious men?—Let England answer these questions—England that knows and duly appreciates the high reputation of the Boston merchants, and the honest, blunt, faithful character of the Yeomanry of our district.—Ye now assemble round Mr. Drakard, because in your hearts ye believe him to be innocent—because ye believe he harboured no such guilty intentions as were ascribed to him by his prosecutor—because ye believe that his publication was calculated to benefit, rather than to injure the army—and therefore that he merits praise, and not punishment. Such are your motives for now assembling here—you meet in the fair exercise of the right of judging of the character of the measures emanating from authority, which belongs to you as Citizens under a free Constitution. You so meet, and you declare Mr. Drakard innocent—I believe your decision may very safely challenge competition with that by which he was adjudged to be guilty."

[Here Mr. Scott alluded to the well-known circumstance of the acquittal of the *Examiner* by a verdict in Westminster-Hall, though it had copied the most forcible passages in the article which was pronounced to be a libel at Lincoln!—After remarking upon the scandalous mode of striking Special Jurors by a Servant of the Crown, and the consequences to be expected from such a practice, Mr. Scott proceeded:—]

"Gentlemen, another and a striking point connected with Mr. Drakard's prosecution is,—that the principle of his publication has been adopted and acted upon in our military system since his punishment.—This is a fact to which I beg your particular attention,—for is it likely that our intentions were criminal, seeing that our suggestions are now deemed beneficial by the highest military authorities, and are, in fact, acted upon?—*(Hear, hear!)*—Mr. Drakard declared that flogging was practised with cruelty in the army;—the Commander in Chief, by General Orders, impressing on officers the propriety of abstaining from this punishment, and enforcing discipline in the men by a stricter regard to duty in the officer, has proved the truth of our statement. Mr. Drakard asserted that the practice existed of bringing out men to undergo fresh torture, when fainting nature rendered them unable to endure their punishment to its full excess in the first instance. This abominable atrocity he reprobated in glowing language, and for so doing he was abused by the hired calumniators of his character: but the practice he condemned, has been since declared to be illegal, and ordered to be discontinued.—*(Hear, hear!)*—Thus, Gentlemen, does it appear, that my worthy friend has been punished, and endeavoured to be degraded as a criminal, for condemning that which has been given up as bad, and for recommending that which has been adopted as salutary.—*(Hear, hear!)*—But this is the way in which improvement, in all ages and places, has ever advanced. It has never gained an inch of ground but in the teeth of power, and in defiance of penalties!"—*(Hear, hear!)*

"Gentlemen, I will not detain you longer by dwelling on these matters; and I would now finish with thanking you—which I do with the most heartfelt sense of your goodness,—for the kind attention with which you have been pleased to listen to me, and for the animating encouragement you have evinced in the course of my speaking, which has given me confidence as I proceeded. With these acknowledgements I would instantly conclude,—did it not fall to my lot, before I sit down, to propose to you a toast—a toast, which I shall propose with the greatest pleasure, and which I am sure you are prepared to receive with enthusiastic delight. Gentlemen, I

see you already anticipate me:—the grateful task of remembering Mr. Brougham,—*(Hear, hear! and thunders of applause,)* and of paying our homage to the exalted merits of his public life, form indeed one of the chief duties of our meeting. In truth, this most accomplished and distinguished man, has completely identified himself with all the purposes of our assembly; and therefore possesses an imperious claim on the acknowledgments of those by whom it is composed. Met, as we are, to congratulate Mr. Drakard on his emancipation from imprisonment, can we forget him whose splendid eloquence in Mr. Drakard's behalf—or rather in behalf of menaced liberty and outraged humanity—is yet sounding in the ears of our country! *(Hear, hear!)*—Whose excellent arguments added tenfold weight to the article which was then under prosecution, the effect of which it was wished to destroy;—who sent it forth conquering and to conquer;—*(Hear, hear!)*—whose wonderful efforts, although they did not succeed in averting punishment from innocence, yet gained a still more important point,—that of attaching the disgrace of punishment to those by whom it was inflicted! *(Hear, hear!)* Met, as we are, the avowed friends of liberty and humanity, is there a heart in our assembly that does not beat with gratitude at the name of Brougham, in the recollection of the invaluable services which he has rendered to our cause? At the name of the Champion of the Press—the Enemy of the Orders in Council, by opposing which he took the most effectual means to put bread into the mouths of famished millions!—*(Hear, hear!)*—the Friend of Peace, Gentlemen, —and, when I say this, I say enough almost to entitle him to your adoration in the present circumstances of the country! Peace! let me impress it on you, ought now to be our morning's wish and our nightly prayer;—it is the one thing needful both for rich and poor—for the rich that they may not become poor, for the poor that they may not be driven into wretchedness.—Mr. Brougham is, at this moment, the man whom the corrupt most dread—it follows, therefore, that he is the man whom the Friends of Reform and of liberty ought most to prize. Discreet, yet determined—able and active—blessed with prodigious talent, and placed by Providence in a situation enabling him to improve it to his own advantage and to ours,—what may not be expected from Mr. Brougham?—It is true he is not now in Parliament;—but this very circumstance, which, with malevolent delight, has been dwelt upon by the venal, as a source of discouragement to the lovers of their country, ought to be considered, as it really is, pregnant with consolation and with confidence. I have good reason for saying, that his failure at Liverpool is only a proof of his integrity—a proof that in him we do not possess one of those characters, too common in public life, whose professions are never meant for performance. Had Mr. Brougham stooped to employ the usual electioneering manœuvres; had he condescended to avail himself of the means which his adversary adopted,—he also might have been disgraced by success!—he might have gained a seat in Parliament, and lost his place in the hearts of an admiring people! *(Hear, hear!)*—But he chose the preferable,—in fact, the only honourable alternative;—he stood for election by the people, and had the people been free to elect, him they would have chosen. He would hear of no compromise,—he would put in force no intrigue:—the consequence was, that he retired from Liverpool, it is true,—but he retired with glory, and followed by the prayers and tears of its inhabitants; while his antagonists, who unworthily gained their votes, worthily shared their curses.—*(Hear, hear!)*—Gentlemen I propose to you the following toast;—

"The health of Mr. Brougham—the zealous defender of Mr. Drakard, and the strenuous opposer of Military Torture." This toast was drunk, accompanied by manifestations of enthusiastic approbation.

During the day, the following toasts and sentiments, with others, were also drunk:—

"The King."

"The Prince Regent, and may he call to mind his declaration, 'That the Crown is held as a sacred trust for the benefit of the People.'"

"The health of the Princess Charlotte of Wales."

"John Drakard, who was found guilty by a Lincoln Jury, but by a London Jury was declared free from crime."

"Mr. Scott, and thanks to him for his able conduct of the Stamford News."

"The health of Sir Gilbert Heathcote; the munificent supporter of Mr. Drakard."

"Lord Erskine, and the Liberty of the Press."

"Constitutional Judges—Intrepid and Independent Advocates—and honest Jurymen."

"John Cartwright, and the Constitution of England."

"The health of the Hon. C. Hutchinson, with a speedy Redress of the Wrongs of Ireland."

"The People of England fairly represented in Annual Parliaments."

"Sir Samuel Romilly, the amiable and able assertor of the Cause of Humanity."

"Mr. Whitbread, the ardent Advocate of Peace."

"A general return to the genuine principles of the Constitution, in Annual Parliaments, Free Elections, and the Right of Voting in every Householder."

"The Cause of Civil and Religious Liberty."

"The health of Sir Francis Burdett and the Independent Electors of Westminster."

"Lord Stanhope, and the distinguished Friends of Religious Liberty."

OLD BAILEY.—On Friday, *John Chaplin* was tried for the murder of his wife. Being asked whether he had any thing to say in his defence, he answered "Nothing."—Many witnesses proved that he was mad; and he was found "*Guilty, but insane.*"—During the trial he struck at the Keepers in the Dock, and said that he was sure he had killed all about him.

MURDER.—On Wednesday last, between six and seven o'clock in the evening, Mr. Wiggin, a respectable miller, who resided near Bridgnorth, was murdered between that place and his own house. He was on his return from Wolverhampton market, and was met by a footpad about a mile from home. It is supposed that, on making a stout resistance, the villain drew a pistol and shot him through the body; the ball passed in a direct line just below his heart. It seems, however, that the assassin was alarmed by his cries, as he made off without taking any of his property, which consisted of from between 50 and 60*l.* in cash and notes. It is remarkable that the unfortunate man pursued his murderer after being shot, for about a hundred yards, and was found by some persons from a turnpike house, who had heard his cries, exhausted from the loss of blood, at a stile which he had in vain endeavoured to get over in his pursuit! He was carried to the house, where he expired in a few minutes. The deceased was to have been married to a lady of Wolverhampton, on Monday next.

On Tuesday afternoon, about five o'clock, as Mr. Appleford, of Richmond, was crossing Hyde-park, by the head of the Serpentine River, he was stopped by two men, one of whom seized him by the collar, demanding his watch and money, the other immediately knocked him down, and beat him so severely, that he lay senseless on the ground the space of a quarter of an hour, or 20 minutes, when some persons coming along, found him, and very kindly assisted him. The villains had robbed him of 14*l.*

BIRTHS.

On Monday last, the 30th ult. the wife of Mr. Jarvis, surgeon and apothecary, New Compton-street, was delivered of a son.

DEATHS.

On the 29th ult. at Milborne Port, Somerset, Mr. William White, at the advanced age of 105 years and 11 months. He retained his mental faculties to the last. He remembered the death of Queen Anne; he was able to reap in the 90th year of his age.

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